Fishery Fact Sheet

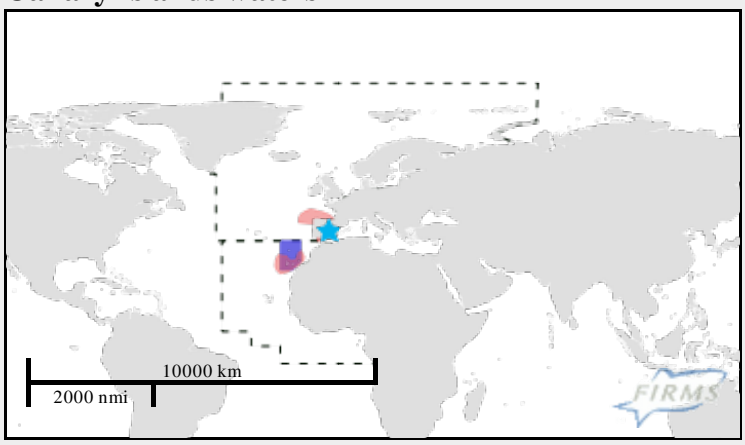
CECAF Fisheries Reports 2011

Spain Artisanal trap finfish fishery - Canary Islands waters, 2011

Pesquería artesanal de nasas para peces de las Islas Canarias

Overview: *This small-scale trap fishery for many benthic species is carried out along the coastal shelves of the Canary Islands by small boats (7.5 to 12.4 m in length). Fishermen set the traps in well known and strategic locations. Traps fishing time oscillates between 1 and 3 days. The number of traps allowed by vessels is different from one island to another. The main caught species are benthic and demersal fin-fishes, octopus and some sometimes crustaceans. Catches are daily commercialized in local markets and/or ports of the islands.*

Location of Spain Artisanal trap finfish fishery - Canary Islands waters



Main layers
- FAO areas and their sub-divisions
- EEZ

Associated layers
- Geographic reference

Intersecting layers
- Intersecting: FAO major fishing areas

Base layers
- 200 nautical miles arcs

APPROACH: FISHING ACTIVITY

Fishing Activity

Fishing Gear: Traps (not specified)
Type of production system: Artisanal
Fishery Area: Canary Islands; Spain; Canaries/Madeira insular
Seasonality: All year long …

Harvested Resource

Target Species: Parrotfish; Salema; Sargo breams nei … more>>

Means of Production

Vessel Type: Trap setters nei

Fishery Indicators

Nominal Effort: Number of vessels
Participation:
Production: Catch total

Geographic reference: Spain
Spatial Scale: National

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Fishing Activity

Type of production system: Artisanal

Fishery Area

Climatic zone: Temperate. Bottom type: Hard_bottom. Depth zone: Coastal (0 m - 50 m); Shelf (50 m - 200 m); Slope - Upperslope (200 m - 500 m). Horizontal distribution: Littoral; Neritic. Vertical distribution: Demersal/Benthic.

Geo References for: Canary Islands

Canary Islands

Exclusive Economic Zone Areas (EEZ)	ESP - Spain
FAO Fishing Statistical Divisions	34.1.2 - Canaries/Madeira insular

More Geo References

The following area codes have been found as intersecting the location of Spain Artisanal trap finfish fishery - Canary Islands waters

FAO Major Fishing Areas	27 - Atlantic, Northeast
	34 - Atlantic, Eastern Central
	37 - Mediterranean and Black Sea
Large Marine Ecosystem Areas (LME)	25 - Iberian Coastal
	26 - Mediterranean Sea

The Canary Islands archipelago and its surrounding waters are part of the Canary region, which is located on the eastern edge of the subtropical gyre of the North Atlantic and is bathed by the Canary current fed by the Azores current (Fiekas et al., 1992). The Canary Islands act as a barrier to the Canary Current and the trade winds which introduce strong variability in the atmospheric and oceanic flows, giving rise to mesoscalar oceanographic processes, such as eddies and warm wakes, to leeward of the islands (Mittelstaedt, 1991, Hernández-Guerra et al., 1993; Arístegui et al., 1997; Barton et al., 1998). On a biological level, these phenomena entail an increase in planktonic production. Likewise, the water masses from the Northwest African upwelling displaced offshore towards the Canary Islands by the Ekman transport and the upwelling filaments may reach the eastern part of the Canary region. Consequently, this region straddles the transition between the cool, nutrient-rich waters of the coastal upwelling regime and the warmer, oligotrophic waters of the open ocean (Barton et al., 1998). All of this results in variability of the oceanographic conditions in the Canary region, both in a longitudinal and a latitudinal sense. Thus, it is expected that the effects will be manifested at the biological level, affecting the whole trophic chain.

Resources Exploited

Other resources: Local costal insular stocks of finfishes.

Target Species

Sparisoma cretense
FAO Names : en - Parrotfish, fr - Perroquet vieillard, es - Loro viejo

Sarpa salpa
FAO Names : en - Salema, fr - Saupe, es - Salema, ru - Сарпа

Diplodus spp
FAO Names : en - Sargo breams nei, fr - Sars, sparaillons nca, es - Sargos, raspallones nep, ru - Морские караси

Dentex spp
FAO Names : en - Dentex nei, fr - Dentés nca, es - Dentones, samas, etc. nep, ru - Зубаны

Pagrus pagrus
FAO Names : en - Red porgy, fr - Pagre rouge, es - Pargo, ru - Пагр обыкновенный

Seriola spp
FAO Names : en - Amberjacks nei, fr - Sérioles nca, es - Medregales nep, ru - Сериолы (=желтохвосты)

Serranus spp
FAO Names : en - Combers nei, fr - Serrans nca, es - Serranos nep

Muraena spp
FAO Names : null

Gymnothorax spp
FAO Names : null

Octopus vulgaris
FAO Names : en - Common octopus, fr - Pieuvre, es - Pulpo común

Adults, spawning

Associated Species (Bycatch)

Several demersal species with low commercial value.

Discarded Species (Bycatch)

Only small specimens of Conger conger have been observed to be discarded in places such as La Graciosa.

Related Fisheries - Fishery(ies) switching activity seasonally or targeting the same stock

Spain Artisanal trap shrimp fishery - Canary Islands waters
Spain Artisanal handlines and poles fishery - Canary Islands waters

Vessel Type

Trap setters nei

Flag State

Spain

They are wooden vessels of 7.5 to 12.4 m in length and around 200 h.p.

Crew
2-3 persons (Spanish nationality) (2009)

Fleet segment
Fleet artisanal segment typical from Canary Islands

Fishing Gear
Traps (not specified)

These traps for fin-fishes are constituted by a generally circular-shape frame, inside-covered by a net o “forro”, with hexagonal and regular mesh. The trap have two entries and one door (the bigger ones can have two doors). The entries are called “bocas” (mouths) or “mataderos” and have different shapes. The narrower part of these entries are orientated to the inside part of the trap, in such a form that fishes can go into but not go out.

Seasonality

All year long

Environmental limitations: Strong trade winter during summer months

Trip Duration
1 fishing day

Ports
Mains port of each island

Fishery Indicators

Type	Measure	Value	Unit	Time period
Nominal Effort	Number of vessels	320	vessels	1999
Participation	Number of fishermen (Canary Islands)	640	persons	2009
Production	Catch total	600	tonnes	1999-2004

Post Harvest

Fish Utilisation
Local consumption

Markets
Local markets

Management

Management unit: No

Jurisdictional framework

Management Body/Authority(ies): Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Fishery and Food and Department of Agriculture, Livestock, Fishery and Food of the Government of Canary
Mandate: Management.

Area under national jurisdiction: Spain
Maritime Area: Exclusive Economic Zone Areas (EEZ).

Management Regime

Law 6/2007, 13 April, modification of the law 17/2003, 10 April (BOC 77, 23/4/2003; BOE 162, 8/7/2003), of Fishery in Canaries (BOC 78, 19/04/2007; BOE 124, 24/05/2007). Management measures of the Spanish purse seiners in Canary Islands are included in the "Law if the Fishery" of the Canaries (BOC 78, 19/04/2007; BOE 124, 24/05/2007).

Management Methods

Conservation and management measures with focus on Effort control, catch control, fish size limits and environment protection.

- *Aquatic species-related measures*
  Minimum fish sizes established by Spanish legislation in the National Fishing Ground of Canary Islands: Serranus cabrilla: 15 cm, Serranus atricauda: 15 cm, Sparisoma cretense:20 cm, Diplodus vulgaris: 22 cm, Diplodus sargus: 22 cm, Pagrus pagrus: 33 cm; Octopus vulgaris: 0,750 kg, Prohibition of catches of certain species

- *Gear-related measures*
  Gear type (net must be degradable), gear dimension (maximum trap size of 300 cm diameter and 100 cm high), mesh size (minimum mesh size: 50,8 mm between parallel sizes of the hexagon, minimum mesh size of 31,6 mm is admitted in traps that not exceed 100 cm diameter and 50 cm high). Use of baits is exclusively allowed to small traps.

- *Fishing activity-related measures*
  Closed areas: 3 Marine Reserves: La Restinga (El Hierro), Fuencaliente (La Palma), La Graciosa (North-Lanzarote). Furthermore, traps are prohibited in inshore waters of El Hierro Island, in a delimited area of Lanzarote Island, and in "La Bocaina" and North Fuerteventura.

More information on fisheries legislation at: FAOLEX legislative database

Status and Trends

Source of Information

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